

dying during the year 1917, and from parents, near relatives, or the attending physician, has investigated the circumstances under which these babies lived and died.

In connection with still-bearing and prematurity, it is noteworthy that only twenty of these mothers received any prenatal supervision or instruction, and that this was confined, for the most part, to more or less infrequent urinalyses. Had the required examinations and measurements been taken prior to the time of confinement, and the mothers kept under expert supervision, it is quite possible that many of these deaths could have been prevented. Thus, we find that ignorance on the part of mothers and public neglect, through the city's lack of facilities for the prenatal supervision of child-bearing women, both operated to terminate these lives scarcely more than begun.

Congenital malformations, as a whole nonpreventable, were responsible for four deaths and congenital debility for twenty-one. Here, again, is the prenatal life of the baby largely responsible for deaths from this cause. Other causes peculiar to early infancy, but which cannot be discussed as a group, were responsible for twelve deaths.

Of the deaths susceptible to postnatal influences, which also total 103, fifty-six were due to digestive disturbances, such as gastritis, diarrhea and enteritis, cholera infantum, etc. It is quite well known that a great proportion of deaths from these causes are preventable. They are due, most frequently, to improper feeding, as with unclean or impure foods or foods entirely unsuitable for infant consumption. In our individual histories we find that practically every artificial food was administered to babies whose mothers were unable to nurse them, and that but rarely was the choice of food or the method of its administration under the direction of a physician. We find, further, that, of the eighty babies who died during 1917 and whose home surroundings have been investigated, privies were the only means of sewage disposal in thirty-two, and that protection from insects was not had in fifty-three of these homes. It is quite possible that fly-borne infection of the food of many Raleigh babies takes place, through the combination of flies and unsanitary privies.

It is quite probable that a number of the mothers who did not nurse their babies might have done so, had they been properly instructed and encouraged in this most important duty of motherhood.

Pneumonia and bronchitis were responsible together for thirty-three deaths. It is generally conceded that about one-half of the pneumonias of infancy are preventable, due as they are to improper clothing, exposure, and other conditions susceptible of control. Whooping-cough, meningitis, and tuberculosis, all controllable and communicable diseases, were responsible for eleven deaths, and congenital syphilis for three. Certainly these latter might have been readily prevented had both mothers and babies secured rational treatment.